

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

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JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR
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February 5, 1978

Dr. Edward S. Copeland
Room 353 Westwood Bldg.
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20014

Ref: ES-CA-01976-01

Dear Dr. Copeland:

The subject grant application was prepared several months ago. In the interval, I have been offered -- and accepted -- the opportunity to assume the presidency of Rockefeller University, effective July 1, 1978. After careful deliberation and discussion with my colleagues, both here and in New York, I have decided to sustain the application, with the intention of moving the work that was started here to the new location. One of my principal motives in accepting this new role was to help further the applications of basic scientific advances in chemical biology to environmental health -- a motif that was already emphasized as the larger context of the present application. Although the existing efforts at Rockefeller already embrace a far wider range of environmental health research than prevails at Stanford, the program outlined here would nicely complement, rather than reduplicate, existing efforts. In that sense, Dr. Dennis Smith, who plays a central role in the outlined research plans, would have an even more effective opportunity for his effective growth; and this is also symbolized by his access to a position as Assistant Professor. Dr. Kappas and his group have already expressed their enthusiasm to me at the prospect of Dr. Smith's working in their laboratory area at the Clinical Research Center at Rockefeller. This reassures me that the more limited part of my own time that, realistically, can be committed to the project will be compensated for by the counsel that they can offer in that environment.

During the term of this grant, I would expect Dr. Smith to take an increasingly responsible role, and in all likelihood to be the principal investigator for its eventual renewal. For the interval, I assume the indicated responsibility of the strategic direction of the project, and arrangement the fulfillment of the research effort in a responsible way. There are many details that will have to be worked out after my arrival -- as would be true for any investigator moving to another location. But without the financial support of the grant I simply could not assure the continuity of the effort, to give the necessary assurances to Dr. Smith; and a substantial investment in personal efforts and in the development of valuable instrumentation will have been irretrievably lost.

Reviewers who are not familiar with Rockefeller University should be reminded that it was formerly the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, its educational programs being confined to a limited number of graduate students (about half the faculty of 200). My own appointment converges with a firm policy to re-consolidate the goals and image of the university around a

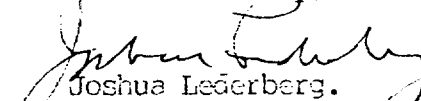
central mission in health sciences. This coherence and modest size, and the support of both the faculty and the board for this policy, lend some credence to my own intention to remain closely coupled to the scientific substance of the university's work, including a carefully measured responsibility for the continued direction of research programs.

The present project is the only grant initiated at Stanford that I plan to move to Rockefeller University as principal investigator. During the next few months, I will be arranging for the graceful termination of the other research for which I had been responsible, or the delegation of responsibility to my successor as department head.

Dr. Smith, who plays a key role as outlined in the application, has agreed to move to Rockefeller if support for his continued work can be assured in a timely way by the success of this application. In addition, I have arranged for endorsement by Stanford University -- as inscribed below -- of the moving to Rockefeller of specialized capital equipment which had been assembled for this research project. Some of that equipment had been acquired from NIH and other government agencies, and their approval may also be required for a transfer of title; it is hard to see any substantive obstacle to their ratification of an agreement now approved by the universities, and if necessary the work could proceed with the use of that equipment regardless of title.

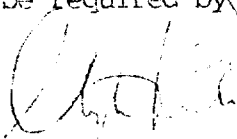
The approval of this grant will, hopefully, be a substantial encouragement to the development of still more comprehensive programs in environmental health sciences at an institution whose accomplishments and reputation in more basic biological sciences need no elaboration.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg.
Principal Investigator

Endorsed:

Stanford University agrees to the transfer to Rockefeller University of the capital equipment listed on the attached inventory, subject to any restrictions or further approvals that may be required by the original grantor.



Clayton Rich
Dean and Vice President of Medical Affairs